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FRIDAY.....JULY 29, 1898.

Friends of the Dispatch would do us a favor by informing us promptly of any failure on the part of newsmen, or newsmen on railroad trains, to meet the public demand for copies of this paper. Information is also desired by us of the delinquency of any carrier of ours in Richmond, Manchester, or elsewhere.

Mail subscribers are likewise invited to report to us whenever their papers come late or irregularly.

A GRAVE PROBLEM.

What about the Philippines? That is the question that is coming most prominently to the front since Spain has made peace overtures. And naturally, it is a question involving delicate and complex questions within a question. It is the only question which, when we come down to the actual work of arranging peace terms with Spain, will call for "negotiation." It may be said that up to that point the case will practically be res adjudicata. The cause bell was our demand upon Spain to relinquish sovereignty over Cuba and withdraw her forces from that island. Spain refused to comply with that demand, and we undertook to enforce it. That her compliance must be one of the conditions of peace is not a matter open to discussion. It is a condition precedent, absolutely, to any final agreement. It is a thing as fixed as the laws of the Medes and Persians, and that far the course is one of plain sailing.

In the prosecution of hostilities we also directed our military operations against Porto Rico, which, after Cuba, is virtually the only remaining foothold of Spain in the Western Hemisphere, and the American flag has been raised on the island. This action is justified by wise military policy alone—that policy which dictates weakening the enemy wherever you can weaken him to your own advantage. From the military point of view, simply, it was a logical result of hostilities. It was a natural enlargement of the scope of our operations. But that is not all. The permanent possession of Porto Rico by the United States—and that is what the present movement against the island means—is a logical result of the war. When Spain accepted war rather than quit Cuba, she staked all of her territory in the western world on the hazard. She invited the conclusion that, should we triumph, she would be driven from this hemisphere. She deliberately united the destiny of Porto Rico with that of Cuba, and acquiesced in the charge of "aggression" in our expeditions against the former. She made our occupation of Porto Rico as security for indemnity a necessity, and considering the accepted fact that she will not be able to pay indemnity in money, our permanent retention of the island becomes a second condition precedent to final agreement upon terms of peace. Moreover, since, owing to the situation Spain precipitated and precipitated with her eyes open—our seizure of Porto Rico can in no wise be construed as violating the Monroe doctrine, up to this point, also, the course is one of plain sailing.

But with the Philippine factor of the problem it is different. The course beyond Cuba and Porto Rico promises to present many windings that will require careful, cautious, and intelligent diplomatic steering. It is true that Dewey's work in establishing a base at Manila was a necessity of the war. As he could not stay in any neutral port, he had to make a base. His action in seeking the Spanish fleet at Manila and sinking it was as much a logical demand of the situation as any other movement we have made. It is also true that the sending of reinforcements to Dewey was a necessity. But the permanent occupation of the Philippines would be in clear disregard of both the letter and the spirit of the Monroe doctrine. It would be an admission of the right of European nations to interfere in the affairs of this face of the globe. It would probably be the beginning of the end of our getting drawn into the ceaseless whirl of European complications.

Why, then, not content ourselves with a coaling station in the Philippines, and for the rest abandon them? The question is easier asked than answered. Through the exigencies of war we have in a measure become mixed up in an alliance or semi-alliance with the Philippine insurgents. At any rate, we rest under a moral obligation to see that

their last state shall be better than their first. How shall we discharge that responsibility? What shall we do with Aguinaldo, the rebel chief, whom we took to the islands in one of our ships? President McKinley is represented as being firmly of the opinion that the United States have no use for the Philippines as a permanent possession. We are of the same opinion. For reasons we have stated time and again, we think that the annexation of the islands would be a terrible blunder—would, perhaps, prove an irretrievable blunder. None the less, we recognize, as we have intimated, that the final solution of the question, "What about the Philippines?" presents one of the most difficult problems we have ever had to face. Still, we believe that it can be solved satisfactorily through the channels of negotiation—still we believe it need not interfere with concluding a treaty of peace—if the administration, in approaching its solution, will rise superior to party influences, and make statesmanship rather than partisanship the test of the counsel it should take in the crisis. A fearful responsibility rests upon Mr. McKinley in connection with the question of going to war. A more fearful responsibility rests upon him in the matter of meeting Spain's overtures for peace, seeing that an unwise step might prolong the war, or might mean the wreck of some of our most cherished institutions.

CUBA OUR WARD.

Spain has never yet and never will willingly recognize the Cuban republic. Nor have the United States recognized either the belligerency or the independence of Cuba.

Therefore, when this country and Spain come to treat for terms of peace it is far more probable that Spain will prefer to cede Cuba to us than to acknowledge its independence.

Indeed, it is difficult to see what other disposition it would be possible to make of Cuba. Our people are hostile to the thought of turning the island over to the government of Gomez, Garcia & Co. In that event, we fear that neither the lives nor the property of the Spaniards and Spanish sympathizers on the island would be safe.

We owe it to the world to keep Cuba under our control until a time comes when we may safely relinquish it to a government of its own people. Whether that time will be one year hence, or five, or ten years, no man can tell. But from the spirit recently shown by the Garcia gang, we should think it would be many, many years before we could trust a government of natives.

About the only way we can see out of the difficulty is for Spain to cede us the island in trust for the people of Cuba. For our part, we do not care what phrases may be employed to convey the territory, but we are anxious that it should be made clear that these United States shall be at liberty to exercise authority and control over the island, until the Cubans have quieted down, and shown a disposition to treat Spaniards and Spanish sympathizers with justice and decency.

It will be an odd position in which we shall find ourselves in arranging a treaty of peace. The Teller resolution will be a stumbling-block in our way. If it is proclaimed to the world that we were bent neither upon conquest, nor acquisition of territory. We made that declaration of our own free will, and it binds us, or, at least, ought to do so.

Following the plan adopted by England for the pacification of Egypt, we may have to take Cuba in hand and discipline it until we think its people capable of self-government. Then we must aid in the establishment of a republic there. After that the republic of Cuba may ask to be annexed to the United States, just as the republic of Texas did.

If there is any other way out of the tangle we do not know what it is.

MUDDY WATER.

The people of Richmond are distinguished for their patience under affliction or oppression. But for this merit of theirs they would not tolerate the muddy stuff that is sold here under the brand of "city water."

Apart from the looks of the thing—and it looks bad—the muddy water we have here for weeks at a time is liable to get us into the worst sort of trouble.

Finding it impossible to use this muddy water for laundry purposes, the washerwomen of the town resort to the nearest wells and springs, and having carried home supplies of such water, they not only use it for washing purposes, but to drink!

Now it is well known that nearly all of these springs and wells are polluted, and some of them may be the means of spreading disease here.

When a contagious disease once secures a foothold among the families of our washerwomen it will soon reach the best families in town. It is, therefore, of the utmost concern to us to protect the health of that part of our population from which we get our washes, our nurses, our cooks, and our butlers. And yet to-day thousands of them are drinking water from polluted wells and springs!

What can we do? If we haven't a large sum of money at our command we can't do anything; but by the expenditure of several hundreds of thousands of dollars we could build subterranean reservoirs, whence we might draw supplies of clear water when the river is muddy.

It is that or nothing!

It seems that the American Book Company did not fare as well as its representatives at first supposed. Instead of being given practically all the books as formerly, it had only about 10 per cent of its publications placed on the list, but its representatives derived comfort from the fact that pupils who now had its geographies, grammars, and readers would be allowed to use them one, two, and three years, respectively. It was thought that this company's books could be purchased in the State for the period named.

A member of the board said yesterday that such a construction of the board's ruling was entirely erroneous. "The pupil who now has the American Book Company's geography can use it for one year," he said; "he can use his old Harvey's grammar for two years more; he can use his old McGuffey's reader for three years. But where new books are to be purchased he must buy those just adopted by the board. This will necessitate the formation of some new classes, of course, but it will not work any material inconvenience."—Dispatch local.

There has been a widespread misapprehension on this subject, and it is well for it to be corrected. The foregoing statement gives the facts as we understand them.

Sagasta charges bad faith in our landing on Porto Rican soil. How about Spain having bad faith in scuttling warships after they have been surrendered? Indeed, is there any such thing as Spanish good faith?

WAR NOTES.

To prevent extortion, General Shafter has ordered that the bakers of Santiago shall charge the people no more than 20 cents in Spanish money for a pound of bread.

Colonel John Jacob Astor, who, with many others from Santiago, has been held aboard ship in quarantine, at Tampa, is said to have displayed bad temper about it. He thinks an exception should be made in his case, and that he should be landed.

The fact that a camp of recuperation is to be established on Long Island for Shafter's army corps indicates that our men have suffered more in Cuba than the public had been led to believe. We may now imagine what the consequences would have been had we laid siege to Havana.

Castillo, who is Garcia's trusted lieutenant, informs the Herald correspondent that Garcia's men do not mean to come into contact with the American army again, nor receive any more rations from us. If that suits them it suits us.

General Garcia is confined to his bed by an attack of fever. Tough as he is, the Santiago climate—or Shafter's coolness towards him—has sickened him.

It makes a good deal of difference with the Cuban soldiers whether their republic is recognized or not. They have not been paid off for three years. The republic certainly would provide for their payment, whereas, the United States may or may not.

So far as we are able to judge from the newspaper accounts, Fitz Lee's camp, near Jacksonville, is the best of the big camps. That Lee has carefully looked out for his men there seems to be no doubt.

Sampson's official report is being roughly criticized by the newspapers of the country on account of his failure to give Shley due credit for his work in destroying Cervera's fleet. Evidently Sampson is not of the opinion that there is glory enough for all hands.

The Relief Committee of the Veterans' Association of the Seventy-first New York Regiment has repudiated the attempt of the World to raise money to build a monument to the members of that regiment who have been killed in Cuba. They hold that the World has done the regiment injury by admitting to its columns an article reflecting upon the Seventy-first's conduct in battle.

THE BANKRUPTCY LAW.

The man who wishes to become a bankrupt, or fears that he will have bankruptcy thrust upon him, need hardly ask the newspapers for advice. He would better go to the lawyers at once. It would take several hours to tell one all that the new law provides, and the bill itself, if printed, would cover one side of this paper. As published officially in Washington, in pamphlet form, it requires twenty-six pages, which demand the most careful reading. And it is needless to say that many outside questions will arise in connection with the statute. After a bird's-eye view of the new law, which really does not go into practical operation for a good while yet, we hardly feel qualified to pass judgment upon it. From the debtor standpoint it has many good points, though creditors may not regard it in the same charitable light.

Both voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy is provided for, and special provisions are made to check fraud and waste of assets. The fees paid are moderate. Senator Knute Nelson, the author of the far-reaching measure, felicitates the country at large on its good luck in securing a law which entails so little expense upon the interested parties.

Along this line he says: "The old law was a register in bankruptcy. He had a monopoly, and got rich out of it. He had a harvest under that law. We have (referring to the present legislation) in place of the register a referee; but the court is authorized, and it is made the duty of the court, to appoint referees in every county where there is any business to be done, so that no man gets a monopoly of the business, and the referee, being practically a judge in chambers, attending to all interlocutory and default business, this means the bankruptcy court is brought right home to a man's door in his own county."

We hope the Senator is right. Certainly he and his associates could hardly have passed a bill which would create more widespread dissatisfaction than the old bankrupt law. Though that measure has been sleeping the sleep of the just, or, at least, for fifteen years, its memory still evokes the most lively abuse.

The Chicago Chronicle asserts that the business-men of the Windy City are not at all satisfied with the new law, and it seriously doubts whether, in the long run, it will really prove conducive to the best interests of trade. In the opinion of many merchants all the benefits will be reaped by the debtor class, and hence they predict that after its operations have been carefully noted, creditors will exercise extreme caution in making loans and giving credit for goods. It is said that "the personal competency, liability, and standing of the intending debtor or vendee will be subjected to rigid investigation, and only the best class of applicants will be accommodated. The result will be a weeding out of heavily-obligated business-men, usually of the 'shopkeeping class.'"

This theory is very much akin to that held by the late John B. Minor, in regard to those statutes which, as he says "are styled in bitter but unconscious mockery, 'poor man's laws.' Their aim is to exonerate a man from a large proportion of his debts, but in the long run they injure him and utterly deprive him of credit."

The editor of the Chronicle, in philosophizing over the remarks of the Chicago merchants, endeavors to take a cheerful view of the bankrupt law. It says: "It is by no means certain that the credit system as we know it, beneficial as it is in some respects, is an unmitigated good. It is by no means certain that it is not productive of almost as much harm as good. At any rate, it is quite certain that it is susceptible of much improvement. Without seriously impairing its usefulness some of the great evils now connected with it may be mitigated, if not wholly removed, by the voluntary action of creditors. The business-men of Chicago, who have expressed themselves in regard to the new bankrupt law, admit that it is possible to exercise a sound discrimination in giving credit. And that is pretty evident to all competent observers without the aid of admissions from those who have had experience in giving credit."

In the peace overture, it seems to be open to doubt whether Spain plays second fiddle only, or base viol also.

The much protesting that the condition of Bismarck is not critical makes it look quite serious for the old Chancellor.

Miles landed easily enough, but his advance doesn't seem to be so easy. For-

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ably he is still trying to lug along that bath-tub.

Wainwright seems to be wright in it, so far as praise for performance in the war is concerned.

"Miles lies still." Shocking habit on the part of Miles. He should by all means correct it.

And now we pounce on Ponce?

A Mother of '88.
(Leslie's Weekly.)

My gallant love goes out to-day. With drums and bugles sounding gay; I smile to cheer him on his way. Smile back, my heart, to me! The flags are glittering in the light; Is it their stars that blind my sight? God, hold my tears until my sight—Then set their fountains free!

He takes with him the light of May; Alas! it seems but yesterday. He was a bright-haired child at play, I smile to cheer him on his way. Blue eyes—true eyes! I see them shine Far down along the waving line—Now meet them bravely, eyes of mine! Good cheer, my love, good cheer!

Oh, mother-hearts, that dare not break! That feel the stress, the long, long ache; That turn the eyes that never wake. For these our cherished ones—And ye, true hearts—not called to bear Such pain as this until your share—Oh, lift with me the pleading prayer, God save our gallant sons!

MARION COUTHOUT SMITH.

He Bent Them All.

(Washington Post.)

Gilbert, the librettist, met Liebling, the pianist, not long ago, and they say the following interchange occurred between them: "Liebling, you must know, has an inordinate vanity, and Gilbert, as you do know, has a caustic wit. Liebling was introduced to Gilbert, and Gilbert said: "Sir, I have heard Liebling!" Liebling bowed his head in acknowledgment at what he supposed was the coming compliment. "I have heard Henri Hertz," continued Gilbert. Liebling bowed still lower. "I have heard Paderewski," Liebling made a genuflection even unto the ground. "Well, sir," concluded Gilbert, in abrupt tones, "not one of them, not one of them, sir, perspired as profusely as you do."

"Mighty" and "Monstrous."
(Wilmington (N. C.) Messenger.)

Some southern papers are discussing the use of the word "mighty"—the prevailing misuse. We remember that long ago we heard of a critic from a northern State saying to a North Carolina friend: "You North Carolinians have a monstrous way of saying 'mighty.' The reply was: 'You northern fellows have a mighty way of saying monstrous.'"

"Blood Will Tell."
(Philadelphia Record.)

It turns out that Admiral Dewey is descended from Alfred the Great, "the wisest, greatest prince that ever ruled in England." In the report of the 87th drove an invading fleet of 19 Danish ships on shore, causing the destruction of all on board. There must be something in pedigree when its influence can come out so strong after lying dormant over a thousand years.

Remembrance of the Maine.
(Philadelphia Record.)

Lieutenant "Dick" Wainwright, on his little transformed yacht Gloucester, has distinguished himself again at Guanica. In fitting this and his other friends of the Maine should have been the one destined by fate to receive Cervera's surrender off Puerto Rico.

"Bravest Are the Tenderest."
(Philadelphia Record.)

Captain Robley D. Evans, of the battleship Iowa, in the report of the battle off Santiago says in appreciation of his crew: "So long as the enemy showed his flag they fought like American seamen; but when the flag came down they were as gentle and tender as American women." Truly, as Tennyson has said, "the bravest are the tenderest, the loving are the darest."

Willing to Pay for Silence.
(Cleveland Plaindealer.)

"Say, I'm paying this war tax without a blessed grumble," said one of the "Who so cheerful?" "You know that typewriter who talks all the time?" "Yes." "Well, I keep her licking stamps all day long."

Allied Roosters.
(Cleveland Plaindealer.)

"It is remarkable that one rooster can do all the crowing," said one. "I think the little rooster is helping him." "Oh yes; an auxiliary crew-sir."

Desert Land Made Beautiful.
(Philadelphia Enquirer.)

No fewer than 12,000,000 acres of land have been made fruitful in the Sahara Desert, an enterprise representing, perhaps, the most remarkable example of irrigation by means of artesian wells which can anywhere be found.

Happy Man.
(Cleveland Plaindealer.)

"Here's a curious marriage notice from a Missouri paper, George. A Mr. Clay has just married 'Miss Mud.' "Happy Clay." He knows that mud occasionally dries up."

Bad Temper.
(Philadelphia Enquirer.)

Bad temper has an injurious physical effect on the digestion, as it tends to drive the blood to the brain, thus leaving the stomach unable to perform its functions properly.

Should Observe Neutrality.
(Atchison Globe.)

There are too many people who use their friends as cooling stations.

America's Greatest Medicine is Hood's Sarsaparilla, Which absolutely Cures every form of Impure blood, from The timple on your Face to the great Scrofula sore which Drains your system. Thousands of people Testify that Hood's Sarsaparilla cures Scrofula, Salt Rheum, Catarrh, Rheumatism And That Tired Feeling. Remember this And get Hood's And only Hood's.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR.

The Noble Work They Are Doing in Richmond.

My first sight of the Little Sisters of the Poor was early one morning, while I was at market. I was stopping in Richmond some weeks under medical treatment, and, as I was an early riser, I would sometimes go with my landlady to market, and amuse myself watching the different persons as they came and went.

While standing near one of the stalls, there passed by me two black-robed figures with large baskets on their arms. As I was from the country, they were novel to me. I observed them closely. I soon saw they were collecting eatables from the market-men and women. They did not appear to ask for anything, but wherever they passed something was thrown into their baskets, and with thanks they passed on to other parties.

On my way home I questioned Miss F., and found visitors were admitted to their institutions, and, as my curiosity was aroused to know about them and their work, I went to their "Home for the Aged" which is situated in the western end of Richmond.

The building is very large, covering more than an acre of ground (there are five acres in all), and from the upper windows, one finds the views lovely; the eye is never tired of gazing at the beautiful panorama that spreads out before it in the distance.

The grounds surrounding this building are well kept, and in summer, when the flowers (of which there are a great number) are in bloom, the front yard is truly beautiful.

Large yards are attached to the building, one for the old men, and one for old women; and in warm weather the aged people are seen walking about the grounds, or resting on the seats that are ingeniously placed everywhere.

A Summer-house covered with vines and flowers, and with comfortable seats in them, are scattered about the grounds; and wicker-chairs, and benches are placed on the fresh, green grass for the old people to rest in.

AMUSEMENTS.

Amusements, as well as comforts, are provided for the old men and women, and one old man appeared deeply interested in a flower-garden that was filled with beautiful flowers. He was French, I presume, as the mother complimented his flowers in French.

I noticed a neat building in the yard and inquired what it was for. One of the Sisters told me it was a house where the old men went when they wished to smoke, as they were not allowed to smoke in the main building. On my expressing surprise at allowing the men to use tobacco, Sister replied, "You might as well deprive them of their food as of their tobacco."

Since I was there, which was some years ago, the building has been very much enlarged and everything else has grown in proportion. They then had two horses, three cows, and a number of different kinds of fowls, and one part of the grounds was a pond, in which geese and ducks were swimming. Pigeons were flying to and from their coots. The rabbits' house was filled with various kinds of rabbits, some black, some white, and many other varieties. Some fine-looking hogs were in a pen. In the garden were many vegetables and fruit—also, a quantity of grapes. Large arbors in the garden, and covered with grape-vines, were in the garden. It was a pretty picture to see the rich purple grapes shining through their green leaves; they looked so cool and tempting, and they were delicious. The Sisters, who had been hanging by his side, kindly cut off some for me.

AN ORDERLY HOUSEHOLD.

In the house everything was so orderly. The large halls and bedrooms, as well as the infirmaries, were immaculate. The numerous windows were polished till they shined. The beds were all of iron, with silver-colored covers, or bright quilts (the work of the old women) on them. Each bed was supplied with two pillows. I was anxious to know if the beds were made of feather-beds, and not of straw, as I have seen, touched several and found this to be the case. A Sister informed me some obdurate to sleeping on feather-beds.

The inmate told the mother he had been sleeping for many years on the floor with a plank for a pillow that he could not stand a feather-bed.

All the old people looked very neat and clean. Their garments were often old and patched, but they were as clean as soap and water could make them, and not a hole or rent could be seen anywhere.

Some of the old women knit, others sew, and some help the Sisters, but the greater part of them, I think, spend their time reading or idling. I asked some of them if they were required to help the Sisters. They said: "No, but when we are able we are only too glad to be of any assistance to them, they are so good to us."

It was touching to see how they, especially the sick ones, seemed to cling to the Sisters, and how gentle and tender the latter were with them, often talking to them and treating them as if they were little children. And many of them were no more than mere children. As the Sisters would pass by them, they would reach forth their hands to stop them, sometimes seizing the Sisters' hands and kissing them. The Sisters would always stop and speak kindly words to them.

Many of the inmates were old, though they had, indeed, found a haven of rest after the storms of life.

OLD WOMEN'S INFIRMARY.

In the old women's infirmary there were several patients over 100 years old. One was propped up in front of her, with a small table in front of her, on which to rest her arms. She was quite chatty, and understood all that was said to her. She had candy (the Sisters kept her supplied with it, as she was so fond of it) and offered me some. She was about to decline taking it when one of the Sisters whispered to me to take it and not hurt the old woman's feelings by a refusal.

I found the Little Sisters do not count themselves as admitting any Catholicism to the home. Any one, provided he or she is 60 years old and has no home or means, is taken in, regardless of creed or sect.

Methodists, Baptists, and Episcopalians were there, with many of them talked, and all spoke in praise of the home and the kindness of the Sisters.

The Protestants are allowed to send ministers of their own belief, and when a Protestant is notified of the fact, and if he wishes, he takes the remains away for burial; if he does not the body is interred in the Bishop's burying-ground.

The home is supported entirely by charity. Several Sisters go out daily—two, I think, in a vestal—on a foot-soliciting contributions. They go to the Richmond markets and other public places for help, and are rarely refused aid at private residences. Protestants, as well as Catholics, giving liberally.

(It is right that everybody should help in such a noble work.)

When I was at the institution there were one hundred old people and thirteen Sisters in charge. There were many more of both, as the building has been enlarged. Before that the home could not receive all who applied for admission. Beds were placed in the halls, dining-rooms, and every nook that could hold a person in order to make room for fresh applicants; and still many had to be sent away.

WORTHY OF PRAISE.

Too much cannot be said in praise of this institution and the devoted women who labor so hard and so constantly for it. The good they have done for suffering humanity cannot be estimated. They have no thought of reward, their sole mission on earth being to help others; and, truly, they must appear as ministering angels to those upon whom they wait so kindly and lovingly. They appear happy and contented with their

EXCURSIONS.

75c. ONLY 75c. Round Trip to...

Norfolk, Old Point, and Newport News

ON THE

STEAMER POCAHONTAS

Saturday Night, July 30th, 10 P. M.

Ladies or Children, each 50c

By 18-13d

work, and have pleasant words for all.

Their faith is boundless. I asked the Mother if she did not sometimes have fears for the welfare of the home and its inmates. Her face lighted up with a look of happiness, as she replied: "No, indeed, the Lord always has provided for us, and He always will."

She told me that a short time after the home was opened in Richmond food was sometimes scarce, but they always managed so the old people should never lack for anything, even if the Sisters did. One morning they had not a mouthful to eat in the house, yet their faith overcame their fear. They went to the chapel to pray, and while there the bell rang; one of the Sisters went to the door, and there found two large baskets of provisions that had been sent them.

Martha Janet little thought when she planned an association for the destitute, not over fifty years ago, that the little seed she sowed would spring up into a tree of such immense size. How could a poor peasant girl expect that her work would yield a thousand-fold increase, and that she would be giving shelter and food to more than 73,000 inmates.

May God continue to bless such efforts—and He will; for has He not promised that "a cup of cold water given in His name shall not go without its reward?"—PROTESTANT.

THE COCKADE CITY.

Charged With Violating Internal Revenue Laws—Breits.

PETERSBURG, VA., July 28.—(Special.)—United-States-Commissioner Joseph P. Brady had before him this morning two citizens of Brunswick county—A. M. Clary and Lundy Shell—charged with violating section 3246 United States Revised Statutes, in operating an illicit distillery. They were sent for trial at the next term of the District Court, and admitted to bail. Another man, charged with the same offense, will appear before the Commissioner to-morrow. When the District Court meets it will have some five or six persons from this section to try for alleged violation of the revenue laws.

The old method of heating the post-office and custom-house building by stoves and grates is to be done away with, and a new system of heating by water or steam is to be introduced. Some weeks ago, on the recommendation of the Commissioner, Mr. T. L. Shippen, the government sent a special agent here to make investigation and submit a report and estimate, and it has been decided to make the improvement. With this view the government has invited bids for the work.

The Board of Fire Commissioners held a meeting last evening and decided to purchase a quantity of new hose for the use of the department. At its next meeting the Board will elect all the members of the Fire Department, with the exception of the Chief, who was elected by the Council on the 1st of July.

The farmers of this immediate section are complaining of rather too much rain, instead of the drier season, as it were, ever, has been a remarkably favorable one, and the crops of all kinds are reported as giving fine promise.

Very little loose tobacco is now being offered at our warehouses, the bulk of last year's crop having been sold by the planters.

AMELIA COUNTY.

Fine Crops—An Example for Younger Men.

AMELIA COURTHOUSE, VA., July 28.—(Special.)—The regular County Court assembled to-day, Judge F. K. Farrar presiding. The attendance at court was small, there being no business of public interest before the court.

R. T. Vaughan, who had been recommended by the Board of Supervisors for the position, was appointed by the Court Superintendent of Roads and Bridges of this county, and qualified according to law.

From all parts of the county I hear that the crop prospects are unprecedented, especially as to corn. There is no criminal case on our docket, and no criminal in jail.

Talking about farming, let me tell you what an old man has done in our county—old Captain John Richardson, now 82, years of age, and who is a brother of the late Dr. Richardson, of the Central Presbyterian, in the year 1804, when he was cleared up three acres of forest land, and without plow or horse, but simply with a hoe, planted and worked the area in corn this year, and the crop is reported to be the finest corn ever raised in this county.

Mr. Lucian Knight, literary editor of the Atlanta Constitution, is at this place, a guest of Colonel Charles E. Wingo, at his country residence. Mr. Knight is one of the most gifted men in the South as poet, orator, and scholar. He will visit Richmond shortly (probably tomorrow), but will only remain a few hours in the city.

WILLIAMSBURG.

The Old Capital Building—Excavating the Foundation—Personal.

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., July 28.—(Special.)—The work of excavating the foundation walls of the old Capitol building at the eastern end of Duke of Gloucester street is now being done by the Virginia Antiquarian Society under the supervision of Engineer George P. Cole. These old walls, as far as they have been uncovered, show that the old Capitol of Virginia was built in a strong and substantial manner. They are in a good state of preservation, and when the work of removing the earth from them is finished they will be drained and capped with cement, so that a complete outline of the foundation of this historic structure may be preserved for the inspection of lovers of Virginia antiquities for generations to come. In the near future a neat fence will be put by the society around the grounds, which are triangular in shape, and contain about two acres of land. Shade-trees will be planted, the grounds will be laid off in walks and otherwise beautified, and as the location is naturally good, the "Old Capitol Park" of the future will be quite an attractive place, not only for our people, but for the strangers who visit us every year to see the places of interest here.

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